GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3674
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2006
BAN ON ORDINARY SALT
Khandelwal Shri Vijay Kumar;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has banned ordinary salt;

(b) if so, whether it is an attempt to serve the interest of multinational companies by closing the small scale industries;

(c) whether the Government is aware that these companies are mixing Potassium iodide chemical in salt in the name of iodine, which is a very poisonous substance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b): Keeping in view the findings of Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research and State Health Directorate that no region in the country is free from Iodine Deficiency Disorders and the fact that iodised salt is the most effective and cheapest way to provide nutritional iodine to the population, the Government has issued a notification under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 banning the sale of common salt for direct human consumption unless it is iodised. This notification will come into force from 17th May, 2006. No multinational company is involved in production of iodised salt presently.

(c) to (e): The permissible proportion of Potassium Iodate to salt is only 30 parts per Million, which is very safe. Government has laid down necessary standards for iodated salt under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules.